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RELIGIOUS BLOC MINISTERS RESUME ATTENDING CABINET SESSIONS; CRISIS BELIEVED AVERTED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The Religious Bloc Ministers in the Israel Cabinet, who have been abstaining from attending Cabinet meetings in the dispute over the education of religious immigrant children living in reception camps, participated in today's session of the Cabinet. A terse communique issued at the close of the meeting merely said that the questions of foreign policy and education in the immigrant camps were discussed.

It was generally believed here that the decision by the Orthodox Ministers to resume attending Cabinet meetings -- which came on the heels of a resolution adopted at an extraordinary Cabinet session summoned by Premier David Ben Gurion yesterday declaring that any Minister who absents himself from meetings of the Cabinet, or fails to carry out any Cabinet decisions, shall be regarded as having resigned -- has averted the critical situation in the Israel Cabinet, brought about by the dispute over education for religious immigrant children, especially those from Oriental countries.

Meanwhile, the Parliament decided to refer to its legal committee the resolution adopted at the extraordinary Cabinet meeting. In reporting the resolution to the Parliament, Premier Ben Gurion said that no Minister can properly attend to the duties of his office if there is no collective responsibility for Cabinet decisions taken. Mr. Ben Gurion did not ask the Knesset to debate the matter now, but said the Knesset was free to do so if it wishes.

Immigration Minister Moshe Shapira then addressed the Knesset, stating that the Religious Bloc's absence from Cabinet meetings was designed to underline the urgency of the problem of religious education to both the Government and the people.

Davar Supports Referendum on Education Among Immigrant Parents

The Mapei newspaper Davar, which generally mirrors the government's views, welcomed the decision of the Religious Bloc Ministers to attend future Cabinet meetings. The paper said a uniform education system for immigrant children would be "most satisfactory," but since this solution had been rejected by the disputants, a referendum among the parents would "be the best way out of the difficulty." Davar insisted that the "parents must not be deprived of their right to decide on the form of education their children should receive."

Earlier, the Orthodox Ministers met with representatives of all religious groups in Israel -- including the Agudas Israel, Mizrahi, Haoved Hadati, Otzar Hatorah and Hapoel Hamizrachi -- and decided to institute a referendum in the immigrant camps populated by Jews from North Africa on the type of education they prefer for their children.

Meanwhile, the Ministerial committee of inquiry investigating education in the immigrant camps yesterday heard testimony presented by the head of the Ein Shemer reception camp and by two theological students who witnessed last week's riot in a camp for Yemenite Jews.

QUESTION OF "WHAT IS A JEW" DISCUSSED AT U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL PARLEY IN GENEVA

GENEVA, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The question of "what is a Jew" and problems relating to the citizenship of future residents of an internationalized Jerusalem were discussed here today by the U.N. Trusteeship Council, which is considering a draft statute for the Holy City. No decisions were taken at today's session, nor did the Israel or Jordan representatives take any part in the discussion.

The American member of the Council suggested that the only Palestine refugees who should be allowed to retain their citizenship are those who return to Jerusalem for the purpose of taking up permanent residence there. The Egyptian delegate proposed that only persons resident in Jerusalem on Nov. 29, 1947, should be allowed to retain their citizenship in the city.

A startling announcement which may lead to the abandonment of the United Nations plan for the internationalization of Jerusalem was made here last night by the Iraqi delegate.

The Arab delegate told the Council that unless the plan of the U.N. General Assembly for the complete internationalization of the entire Jerusalem area is accepted by the Council, all Arab states would retreat from their support of the establishment of an international regime for Jerusalem and would support full Arab control over all of Jerusalem.

Edmond Roq, Jordan spokesman at the Trusteeship Council meeting, in a statement today said "King Abdullah has rejected every form of U.N. supervision for protection of the Holy Places just as he has rejected every kind of international regime."

"King Abdullah," the Jordan spokesman's statement continued, "has accepted the armistice boundaries, but within the territory under his control, he alone would retain full authority over the Holy Places as the British and the Ottoman Sultan have done before him." He added: "King Abdullah would tolerate no outside interference whatsoever and has instructed the Jordan delegation not to participate in any way in discussions of the Trusteeship Council or in any informal talks designed to introduce U.N. control in any shape or form in the area of Jerusalem."

EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS CAIRO GOVERNMENT WILL NOT NEGOTIATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The Egyptian Foreign Minister declared yesterday in Cairo that despite strong Anglo-American pressure, Egypt will not negotiate directly with Israel for a peace settlement, the Cairo radio monitored here broadcast today.

The broadcast quoted "reliable Arab sources" as believing that a second round of the Arab-Jewish war will begin within a year. Arab rearmament is being forced on the Arab states, the radio said, by "thousands of immigrants arriving in Israel daily, which will provoke Jewish expansionism."

GROUP OF 55 LEBANESE JEWS ENTERS ISRAEL FROM LEBANON UNDER ARMISTICE COMMISSION PACT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- A group of 55 Lebanese Jews crossed the Israel-Lebanese frontier today into Israel at the Rosh Hanikra customs post under an agreement reached by the mixed Israel-Lebanese armistice commission. Red Cross and Israel immigration officials were present at the border to welcome the new arrivals.

JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE BUDGETS \$29,000,000 FOR ABSORPTION DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- A budget of \$29,000,000 for activities of the Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency for the current year has been agreed upon by the plenary session of the Jewish Agency Executive, it was announced today. The sum includes the upkeep of immigrants presently in reception camps and installation of immigrant houses.

The Israel Government's deficit, resulting from an excess of expenditures over revenues in the first half of the current fiscal year, is \$1,900,000, it was revealed today by the official statistical bulletin.

A plebiscite will be held among newly-arrived parents living in immigrant reception camps to determine the type of schools they wish their children to attend, it was revealed last night following a lengthy meeting attended by members of the Mapai parliamentary group and the general secretariat of the labor party.

The session was called to try to work out a compromise which would satisfy the Mapai's insistence on a single type of school in the immigrant camps, offering partial religious training in line with the type of education provided in the schools of the religious labor movement, and the Religious Bloc's rigid demand for unrestricted religious education of all Jewish youths born in Oriental countries.

A total of 4,936 immigrants arrived in Israel during the week ending Feb. 14, it was reported today. Two thousand of the arrivals came from Poland, 450 from Rumania and 600 from various parts of North Africa.

ISRAEL ALLOWS EGYPTIAN CONVOY TO GO TO HEBRON TO RETRIEVE BODIES OF SLAIN SOLDIERS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Israel has given permission for an Egyptian Army convoy to go from Gaza to Hebron today and to return two days later, it was announced last night.

The convoy, made up of eight three-ton trucks and four jeeps carrying 42 soldiers and four officers as well as a Moslem religious dignitary, will take back to Egypt the bodies of Egyptian soldiers killed in the Bethlehem-Hebron area during the fighting in 1948.

A joint Israel-Egyptian meeting scheduled to be held at Auja el Hafir was cancelled today without explanation. No new date for the meeting has been fixed nor was any explanation for the sudden cancellation given.

"GREATER SAY" IN PALESTINE POTASH COMPANY REQUESTED BY ISRAEL'S FINANCE MINISTER

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- A proposal that the Israel Government should have "a greater say" in the business of the Palestine Potash Company and that the concession for this company be affirmed only if its head office, as well as the majority of its shareholders, will be in the Jewish state, was presented by Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan to the Finance Committee of the Israel Parliament.

At present the company is operating partly on the Israel side and partly on the Jordan side of the Dead Sea, from which potash and other chemical deposits are obtained. Discussions on the operations of the company have been going on since the establishment of Israel. The Finance Committee, after hearing Mr. Kaplan's proposal, decided to discuss it in detail in a few days.

THREE-DAY PARLEY IN BUDAPEST MARKS MERGER OF MODERN AND ORTHODOX JEWISH COMMUNITIES

BUDAPEST, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The merger of the Orthodox and modern Jewish communities in Hungary took place officially here today at the opening of a three-day conference attended by 234 representatives of both groups from all parts of the country. No Zionists were among the delegates.

The conference, which is to adopt a constitution for the united Jewish community, elected Dr. Lajos Stoeckler president of the merged congregations. Thanking the Minister of Education, Gyula Ortutay, who was present at the opening session, Dr. Stoeckler reviewed the present situation of the Jews in Hungary and emphasized that the government is willing to maintain religious liberty. He hailed the merger of the two communities and assured the Orthodox delegates that their religious requirements will be respected and that they will also enjoy a certain amount of autonomy within the union.

Rabbi Kahan-Frankl, president of the Orthodox community, appealed to the representatives of the modern community -- which form the majority in the merger -- to respect the wishes of the Orthodox elements in the community. He said that the observance of the Sabbath is essential to Jewish religious life and read a declaration on behalf of the Orthodox community accepting the union.

The merger of the two communities became necessary as a result of the fact that the number of Jews in Hungary is dwindling and Hungarian Jewry can no longer afford to be split into two sects. The government order separating the state from the church has also made it imperative for the two separate Jewish communities to merge.

ROMANIA SCRAPS 1938 LAW WHICH DEPRIVED THOUSANDS OF JEWS OF THEIR CITIZENSHIP

BUCHAREST, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Instructions covering the issuance of new "certificates of citizenship," published today by the Provisional Town Council of Bucharest, indicate that the Rumanian Government has scrapped a 1938 law under which thousands of Rumanian Jews became stateless persons.

The law, approved during the anti-Semitic Goga-Cuza regime, ordered all Rumanian Jews to submit to a lengthy and costly legal procedure to prove their right to Rumanian citizenship. Thousands of Jews, whose families had been living in Rumania for many generations, lost their citizenship rights because of their inability to secure the necessary legal documents.

Today's instructions describe the 1938 law as of "racial character" and add that the loss of citizenship resulting therefrom should not be taken into account when citizenship certificates are issued at the present time.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS PROPOSE PRINCIPLE TO UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON STATELESSNESS

LAKE SUCCESS, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations suggested today to the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on Statelessness that in order to eliminate certain types of statelessness, it adopt the principle whereby there will be "no loss of nationality without the acquisition of a new nationality."

The Board pointed out that such a rule -- which was originally proposed by U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie -- could eliminate cases where naturalized citizens are deprived of their citizenship because of prolonged residence abroad.

SENATE BODY TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED ILLEGAL ENTRY OF DISPLACED PERSONS TO U.S.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- A Senate Judiciary subcommittee decided to call chief officials of the Displaced Persons Commission to explain alleged instances of fraud in the operation of the DP Act of 1948.

Sen. Pat McCarran, chairman, said he would call on the heads of the DP Commission to explain allegations of illegal entry of thousands of DP's to the U.S.

ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ISSUES FIRST IMMIGRATION VISAS TO JEWS SINCE END OF WAR

NEW YORK, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The HIAS reported today that the Argentine Government issued 150 permits for the immigration of 402 HIAS-sponsored Jewish refugees from Europe to Argentina, comprising the first block of visas issued to Jewish survivors since the end of the war.

At the same time, HIAS headquarters here was informed today that the Argentine Government had granted immigration visas for 45 Jews who had to return to France aboard the S.S. Florida last December after being refused temporary stay in Uruguay, where they hoped to receive visas for Argentina. The visitors' visas, which were issued to the Jews in France by Uruguayan consuls, were not honored by authorities in Montevideo when the S.S. Florida arrived there.

LOS ANGELES COURT FINES THREE PERSONS AND CORPORATION FOR SENDING PLANES TO ISRAEL

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Three persons and a corporation were fined here \$10,000 each after having been convicted of smuggling planes and equipment to Israel. They were charged with violating the Neutrality Act by smuggling planes from Florida to Israel in 1947 and 1948.

The defendants are Adolph Schwimmer, New York; Leon Gardner, North Hollywood; and Ray Selk, Los Angeles. The company, which was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine, is Service Airways, Inc.

STUDENTS PLAN NATIONAL GROUP TO COMBAT DISCRIMINATION ON AMERICAN COLLEGE CAMPUSES

ITHACA, N.Y., Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Student delegates from 17 Northeastern colleges and universities, meeting at Cornell University, last night announced plans for the formation of a national organization to promote inter-racial and inter-faith activities. The delegates assembled here in what was described as a move to break down discrimination on American college campuses. The new organization is expected to be formed this spring at a national convention.

(The elimination of all "restrictive or discriminatory clauses" in the charters and constitutions of all 18 affiliated fraternities at the Washington Square Center of New York University was announced in New York today by the University's Inter-Fraternity Council in a letter to Dean Thomas C. Pollock.)

BILL TO BAN DISCRIMINATION IN NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS INTRODUCED

ALBANY, N.Y., Feb. 22. (JTA) -- A law to ban racial and religious discrimination in publicly-aided, private housing projects built in New York State after July 1 was advocated by Senate Majority Leader A. Wicks in a bill introduced in the legislature yesterday. The measure is expected to win legislative approval.

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UNITED JEWISH APPEAL WILL HOLD ITS NATIONAL MOBILIZATION CONFERENCE IN MIAMI

NEW YORK, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- A national mobilization conference of Jewish leaders from all parts of the country to inaugurate the campaign program for the 1950 United Jewish Appeal will be held at the Saxony Hotel at Miami Beach this week-end, it was announced by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the U.J.A.

Mr. Morgenthau explained that the purpose of the mobilization conference would be to "establish standards for the 1950 campaign, on whose outcome depends the future of hundreds of thousands of Jews who have been brought to Israel during the past year and hundreds of thousands of others who are still in the Moslem lands and Eastern Europe who look to American Jews for a new future."

SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH LEADERS FLY TO ISRAEL FOR ON-THE-SPOT SURVEY OF CONDITIONS

NEW YORK, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- A delegation of ten prominent San Francisco Jewish leaders left last night via Air France from here for a survey of settlement, upbuilding and development programs carried on in Israel with funds raised through the United Jewish Appeal.

The West Coast leaders, headed by Lloyd Dinkelspiel, prominent San Francisco attorney and president of the city's Jewish Welfare Fund, will return to this country in time to formally open the San Francisco Jewish Welfare Fund campaign on behalf of the U.J.A.

GEN. HILLDRING RECEIVES "BROTHERHOOD DAY" AWARD FOR AID TO DP'S AND TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- General John H. Hilldring, former Assistant Secretary of State in charge of Displaced Persons and later alternate U.S. delegate to the United Nations who helped to secure the Palestine "partition" resolution, today received the fourth annual Brotherhood Day Award conferred by the Men's Club of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun at Brotherhood Day ceremonies. The presentation was made at a luncheon by Dr. Israel Goldstein, rabbi of the synagogue, which is the second oldest in New York.

AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN PLAN TO ESTABLISH ISRAEL PLANT FOR MANUFACTURE OF TIRES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- A group of American businessmen now in Israel is negotiating for the establishment of a plant here for the manufacture of a sufficient quantity of tires both for local needs and export purposes, it was reported today.

EXHIBIT OF ISRAEL CRAFTS OPENS IN NEW YORK; HOUSEHOLD RELIGIOUS ARTICLES ON DISPLAY

NEW YORK, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- An exhibit of Israel crafts and products, sponsored by the Palestine Galleries for Arts and Crafts, Inc., opened at the Hotel Pierre here yesterday. The exhibit is a non-profit project of the Palestine Foundation Fund. The 200 items on display, originating primarily from Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa, include works of silver, costume jewelry dinner sets and numerous Sabbath and religious household articles.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY ACCEPTS YUGOSLAV INVITATION TO SEND 40 STUDENTS FOR MONTH'S VISIT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The Hebrew University accepted an invitation today from the Yugoslav Government to send a group of 40 students for a visit to Yugoslavia during the coming summer. The students were invited to remain for a month.

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